

For coloured linens a suds made from neutral soap and soft water is advisable, or one of the mild synthetic detergents is particularly suitable for coloured articles. The water should not be hot. No coloured fabrics should be permitted to become badly soiled before being laundered, because heavy soiling is more difficult to remove at the cooler temperature of the water.

Thorough rinsing is again very necessary.

Printed fabrics washed for the first time may lose some colour into the water and should be rinsed until the rinsing water remains clear; this removes excess colour, and subsequent washings can usually be done without encountering this difficulty. Only the colour-fast dyes are satisfactory with linens. However, with colours about which there may be any doubt, it is always advisable to test beforehand a sample piece of the material.

Ironing

Coloured linens should be ironed damp and on the wrong side only, except table linen where a gloss is desirable, in which case both sides are ironed.

Stain Removal

Stains of some types need removing before the article is laundered.

Ink pencil, grass stains, embroidery transfer ink, carbon paper, shellac varnishes, and ballpoint pen ink should be removed with methylated spirit, with subsequent washing to remove the last traces of the stain.

Lipstick usually comes out with washing; however, if it is known to be a type that does not, carbon tetrachloride followed by washing is usually successful.

Fruit juice, tea, and coffee stains, if attended to while fresh, can usually be removed by stretching the linen taut over a basin and pouring boiling water from a height (about 12in. so that the water strikes the fabric with some force) through the stain; if the stain is stubborn, a little glycerine put on it and the boiling water treatment again tried will usually be successful.

Butter, gravy, and olive oil stains are removed by ordinary washing processes.

Candle grease is removed by scraping off the wax, covering the spots both above and underneath with clean blotting paper, and pressing with a

hot iron. Remaining traces can be removed with carbon tetrachloride.

Blood stains, particularly fresh ones, are removed by soaking them in cold water and subsequently washing the article; if the blood has dried, a preliminary soaking for a few hours in a weak salt solution, followed by washing in the ordinary way, is the proper treatment.

Mildew is always difficult to remove. The best method is as follows:—

Wash the article in a strong soap solution and put it wet out in the sun for several days, rewetting the fabric as it dries.

Iron mould is removed with salts of lemon. A little commercial salts of lemon is rubbed on to the wet stain and held in the steam coming from the spout of a boiling kettle; then rinsed out very thoroughly. For removal of iron mould with oxalic acid $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of oxalic acid crystals are dissolved in 1 pint of warm water and the stain is immersed in this solution. The process is repeated if necessary, and the material is then rinsed out and washed in the usual way.

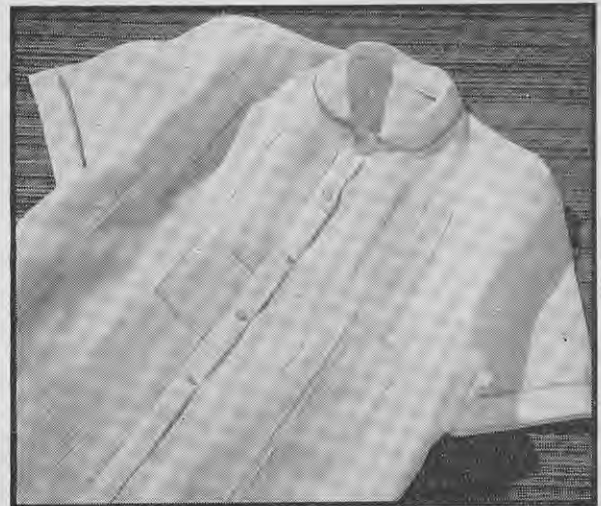
Salts of lemon and oxalic acid are both poisons.

Paint or varnish can usually be removed with turpentine, and lacquers with acetone, followed by the usual washing.

Storage

Any article which is usually starched but which is not likely to be used over a long period should be washed completely free of starch before it is stored.

Linen should not be kept in a cupboard through which heating pipes run, or in a chest near a radiator. Warmth is neither necessary nor advisable.



Hand-tucked and hemstitched handkerchief-linen blouse.

A dry, well ventilated cupboard with shelves 18in. to 20in. deep and covered with white paper, where linen may be piled, each kind separately, is the ideal.

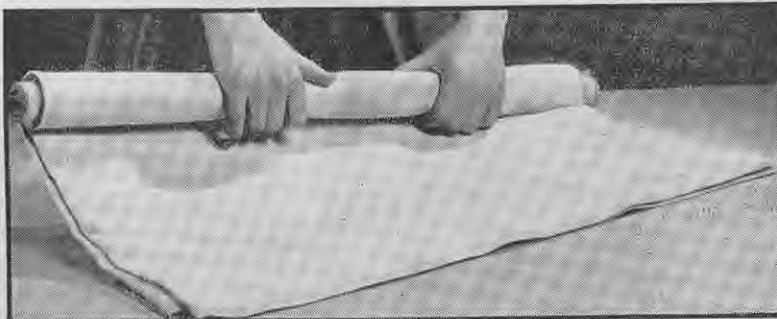
Table cloths are often rolled on the outside of a cardboard tube and tied in place lightly with tape. The cloth is folded only once, in halves lengthwise, and then rolled round the tube. Afternoon-tea cloths are treated similarly. Tray and wagon cloths, if space does not permit them to be stored flat without folding, may also be rolled. Napkins are folded and placed in a pile. Place mats are stored in sets with a piece of cardboard between one set and the next to avoid confusion. Dining room linen should be stored in the dining room, if space permits, to avoid extra steps, reserve supplies being kept in the storage cupboard.

Linen is moth-proof, but is particularly susceptible to mildew and should never be left dampened and rolled up for longer than a few hours before being ironed.

White linen not in general use should be covered with blue paper to guard against yellowing, and any that has yellowed through storage should be washed and hung in bright sunlight to bleach. Cedar chests are not suitable for linen storage; the fumes tend to yellow the material.

As good-quality linen is not inexpensive, it is advisable to replace each article or set of articles as it is withdrawn from use. If items are thus replaced gradually, the outlay is spread over a period and the supply is not depleted.

Ageing damask table cloths that have reached the stage where they can no longer serve their original purpose can be given a fresh lease of life as smaller breakfast cloths, table napkins, trolley covers, and carving and serving cloths. Old tea towels are excellent as polishing cloths for cleaning windows and they surpass any other material for cloths for washing paintwork.



Rolling an ironed table cloth round a cardboard cylinder or rolled-up newspaper will keep it free of creases while it is stored in the linen cupboard.